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Advocate of Peace.

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Dominant Notes of the Annual Meeting.

A confident belief that the mission of mediation on the part of the "A. B. C." republics will yet offset the temporary hysteria over the Tampico incident; a growing conviction, reinforced by the events of recent weeks, that great armaments are disturbers of the peace rather than its guarantors; satisfaction at the things accomplished during the year just completed, and a frank recognition that the masses of the nation must be reached more widely than heretofore—these were the dominant notes of the eighty-sixth annual meeting of the American Peace Society.

The first of these keynotes is evident from the resolution (which appears elsewhere in this issue) which was unanimously adopted by the society after a vigorous debate over whether or not President Wilson's Mexican policy was defensible. However the delegates differed on the latter question, they were

unanimous in welcoming the offer of mediation on the part of our South American sister republics and its prompt acceptance by the two contending parties. The delegates reported with enthusiasm how the possibility of averting war through mediation was hailed in their various communities with relief and satisfaction by the people in all walks of life.

Congressman Bartholdt drew forth vigorous applause when he exploded the fallacy that dreadnoughts and excessive armaments are guarantors of peace by pointing out that the presence of a man-of-war in Havana harbor provoked the Spanish-American conflict and the presence of a dreadnought in Mexican waters the Tampico incident. The same theme was seized upon by Congressman Hensley, who pointed to the insecurity of Missouri citizens in the days when everybody carried arms, and Senator John Sharp Williams, who carried the audience with similar illustrations from the South.

The American Peace Society looks back with unusual satisfaction upon a year of constructive growth and expansion. The executive committee, through its two directing officers, reported the addition of four branch societies, eight section societies, and one affiliated society; an increase of the circulation of THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE to eleven thousand copies monthly; the addition of over one thousand paying members; the holding under its auspices of nearly fifteen hundred lectures by one hundred and fifty different lecturers; the visit to the parent and branch societies of such distinguished foreign guests as Norman Angell, Bernard Noel Langdon-Davies, Dr. Sidney L. Gulick, and Dr. Shosuke Sato; the bringing to bear of pressure upon Congress in favor of the repeal of the Panama Canal tolls exemption clause, the adoption of the naval holiday resolution, and the calling of the Third Hague Conference.

Inspiring though this record proved, there was a frank recognition of the fact that the masses at large have not yet been adequately reached, chiefly because of the lack of funds. Hon. Jackson H. Ralston well pointed out that public opinion must be awakened to the undesirability of permitting the citizens of one nation to sell arms to another while the latter is at war or to negotiate the sale of foreign bonds for the purpose of financing a war. Senator Burton made the significant statement that the time will soon come when the peace forces will have to demand of all candidates for election to national offices a statement of their position on the international questions. Much of the round-table conference of the members of the board of directors centered upon this question of how to extend the membership of the society to include ever greater and greater masses of the people.